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DEPARTMENT OF
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September 24, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45
Year 2003 Certification of Rural Carriers for Receipt of High-Cost Funds

The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("MDTE") respectfully submits this filing in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") requirement that state commissions certify that rural carriers are using high-cost funds in a manner consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act. The MDTE certifies that the following rural carriers will use funds received for year 2003 rural high-cost support (including high-cost loop support, local switching support, high-cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high-cost model support, and hold harmless support) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act:

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Richmond Telephone Company (study area code 110037)
Granby Telephone & Telegraph Company (study area code 110036)
Taconic Telephone Corp. (study area code 150084)

Should the Commission require any additional information concerning this matter,
kindly contact me at (617) 305-3744.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Isenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael A. Isenberg
Director, Telecommunications Division